



Building 41

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Chapter 31

Building 41

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(with reference to reports by Doru Bogdan & Shahina Farid)

The most significant post-Neolithic feature on the East Mound is massive structure B.41 located on the western side of the 4040 Area. The upstanding parts of the walls and the internal features of the building have been lost to erosion, but the substantial foundations of the building have survived. The structure probably dates from the Selçuk period, representing an important feature of the post-Neolithic use of the mound. A stratigraphic narrative of these features is therefore presented in order to allow future study of the material from these phases.

Building 41: Construction

(Fig. 31.1 Harris matrix on CD)

B.41 was constructed as a roughly square building, divided into three main spaces and two additional spaces to the south and west (Fig. 31.2). The dimensions of the square part of the building were 13.96m for the northern side, 12.88m for the eastern side, 13.48m for the southern side and 14.21m for the western side. A large wall foundation divided the western side of the building into a room Sp.217 measuring 12.12m by 5.77m. The eastern side of the building was further sub-divided into a northern space Sp.216 measuring 5.02m by 2.9m and a southern space Sp.212 measuring 7.64m by 4.74m with Sp.215 inset into the northwest corner of Sp.212. The foundations of B.41 were substantial with trenches dug between 0.95m and 1.05m in width and a depth of between 0.75m and 1.0m. These foundation cuts were filled with compact battered clay to form the basis for the construction of the buildings walls. A wall foundation abutting the west wall of the building forms an additional space to the west, Sp.282. Its southern wall F.1478 was excavated for a length of 1.4m but extends beyond the limit of excavation. This room was part of the original design of B.41 having the same continuous construction cut as the main wall foundations.

On the south side of the main square structure of B.41, three walls (F.1245, F.1246 and F.1247), of similar width but with shallower foundations than the other B.41 foundations, enclosed an additional area (Sp.222). This is possibly a later extension to the main part of the building tacked on to wall

F.1217. As the construction cut was not as deep and not flush against the original foundations, the southern wall F.1217 would have been already standing when this space was added. During the construction of the annex, a timber (13196) was laid across the top of the cut in part of the southern wall possibly to stop slumping at the top. Although this space was a later addition it still appears to have been built during the initial layout of the building as in the dividing wall between Sp.222 and Sp.217 there is evidence for a robbed out threshold. Mudbricks (12634) were set into the foundation cut separated by 1.13m in the middle of the north side of Sp.222 (Fig. 31.3). These were probably supporting an opening between the two spaces and a cut (12633) indicates that the material supporting the doorway had been robbed out after the abandonment of the building. As the entrance-way between Sp.217 and Sp.222 was built during the initial construction, it confirms that the southern space was built at the same time as the rest of the building even if the foundation cuts did not join.

Sp.215, the small room in the northwest corner of Sp.212, was defined by a separate and well-constructed floor whilst the floors in the rest of the building rarely survived. For the construction of the floors a square cut (12626) was filled with a clay make-up layer (12608). The cut did not extend up to the foundations of the walls of Sp.212 and the gap left between them indicates that the walls were already built. A solid, white plaster floor (12399) covered the interior of this small room (Fig. 31.4). The make-up for the plaster floor also sealed a feature F.1470 comprising of an oval cut measuring 1.8m by 0.47m by 0.19m. The fill contained two tree trunks placed parallel to each other. One interpretation is that it may represent some form of drainage channel in association with the hard mortared, and possibly water proofed floor above or it have been to reinforce the floor above.

In Sp.216, two postholes (12611) and (12613) measuring 0.2m in diameter and relatively shallow in depth truncated the underlying Neolithic deposits. These are interpreted as remains of scaffolding from the construction phase of the building.

In Sp.217 a smaller area of plaster surface (8846) measuring 0.5m by 0.54m survived overlying a more extensive make-up layer (8759). Like the plaster surface in Sp.215, these were

Building 41

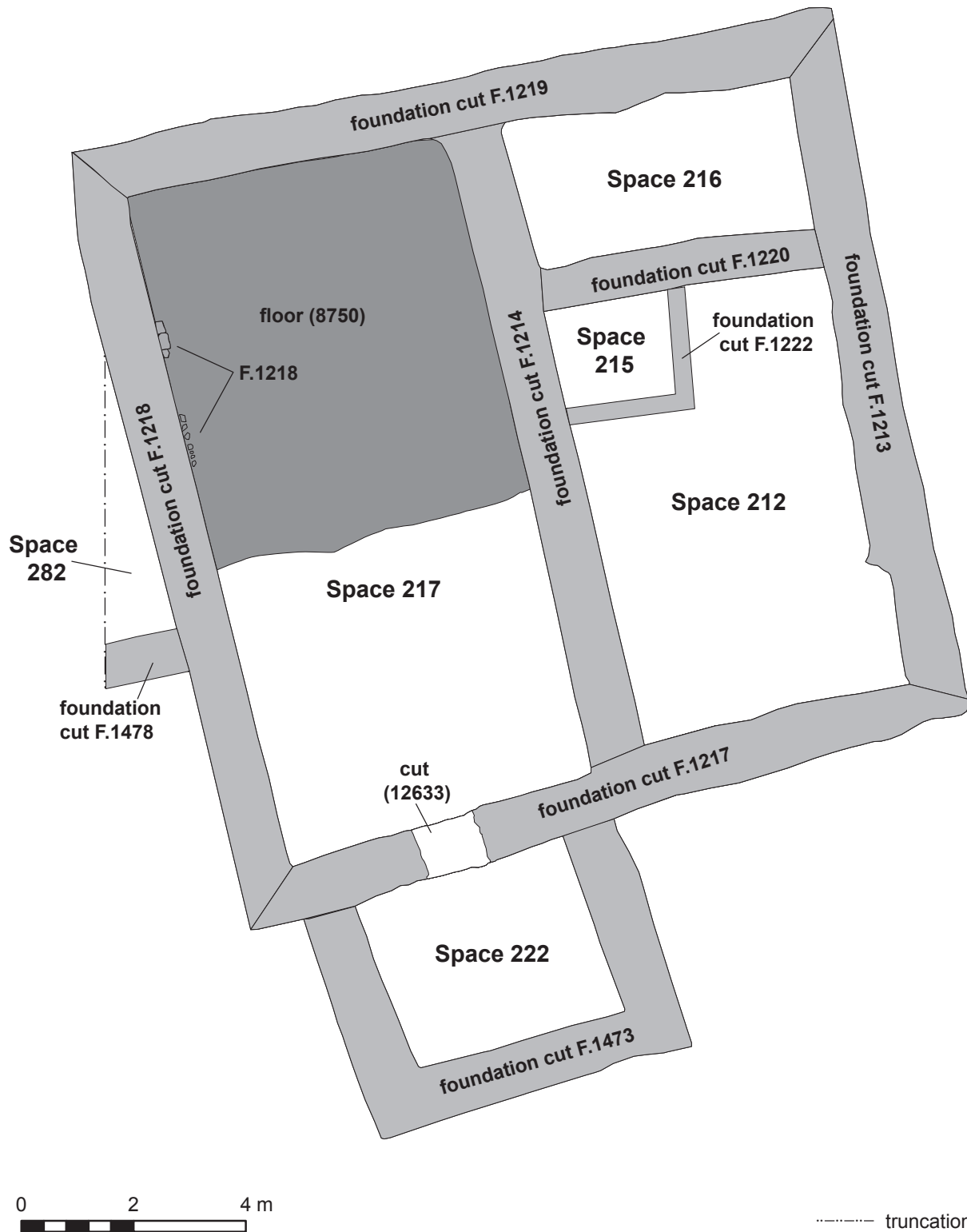


Figure 31.2. Plan of the layout of B.41 (Plan by Camilla Mazzucato, Cordelia Hall and David Mackie).



Figure 31.3. Mudbricks (12634) set into the top of the foundation of wall F.1217 to support a doorway between Sp.217 and Sp.222 (Photograph by Jason Quinlan).



Figure 31.4. Floor plaster (12399) in Sp.215 and surrounding wall foundations cutting Neolithic deposits (Photograph by Jason Quinlan).



Figure 31.5. Overhead photograph of B.41 (Photograph by Jason Quinlan).

set into a cut (8773). Also revealed were three large cobbles (8789) possibly utilized as post packing or a post support under the plaster surface. These were located just within the southern boundary of Sp.217. In the centre of Sp.217 was a cut (12638) contained two large cubic stones set in yellow that probably acted as a post-pad for a roof support post.

Building 41: Occupation

There is minimal evidence for the modifications to the building during its occupation but in Sp.217, above the plaster floor, was an additional make-up deposit (8750) and a series of limestone cobbles were set against the wall forming an internal wall lining with possible associated entranceway along the western outer wall (8788). A similar internal lining of stones (8787) was present in Sp.216 but only partially survived.

Building 41: Abandonment and building collapse

At the abandonment of the building some of the posts were removed. In Sp.216 a post measuring 0.66m in diameter by 0.18m was removed (12615). In Sp.215, truncating the plaster floor was a probable retrieval pit (12607) measuring 1.47m by

0.3m by 0.14m. A post or posts set into the wall foundation between Sp.212 and Sp.214 was also removed leaving a retrieval pit (12633) measuring 1.2m by 0.95m by 0.92m in depth.

Nothing of the upper part of the walls remained *in situ* but several deposits of wall collapse (8710), (8720) and (8760) were excavated where the walls had fallen from the foundations leaving a clear pattern of the coursing of the mudbricks horizontally overlying the Neolithic deposits. From the collapse it is possible to reconstruct the build of the walls. The width of 1.75m of collapse deposit (8710) indicates the minimum height of the walls with the mortar varying throughout the build. The lowest courses were mortared with a light grayish yellow deposit changing to a dark gray mortar in the upper two thirds. The bricks were light gray clayey silt measuring between 0.31m to 0.45m in length, about 0.14m in width with a thickness ranging from 78mm to 0.11m. As such, the bricks were considerably smaller than the bricks used in the Neolithic buildings.

Summary

The function and date of the building are still unclear. The foundations of B.41 truncate several burials that are broadly dated to the first and second centuries CE (Chapter 32). Dat-

ing of pot sherds recovered from the excavation suggests that B.41 was built during the Selçuk period or perhaps slightly later. A number of pits surround the building, but no work has been done on these to suggest which, if any, were contemporary to the building. Analysis of contemporary waste discarded in the pits may, in the future, help indicate the function of this structure (Fig. 31.5).

Acknowledgements

First exposed during the surface scrape in 2003, B.41 was excavated between 2005 and 2006 by Doru Bodgan, Lisa Yeomans and Richard Taylor.